

WASHINGTON GOSSIP

PEOPLE AND EVENTS AT NATION'S CAPITAL.

SHAW AS A SPELLBINDER

Secretary of Treasury the Popular Orator of Cabinet—New Fad at Post Office—Passing of Old Landmarks.

Washington.—The champion spellbinder of the cabinet is Secretary of the Treasury Leslie M. Shaw. There may be more polished orators, like Secretary Taft, Attorney General Moody and Secretary of State Hay, but when it comes right down to captivating an audience and entering into the gibe and take repartee of the political stump Secretary Shaw is away ahead of his colleagues. He is at home on any political subject, and can talk to any sort of an audience. He prefers finance, however, and doesn't much care whether he is discussing the subject before a body of Wall street financiers or explaining the money system of the government to a crowd of western farmers at a harvest home.

Mr. Shaw is the unluckiest man in the cabinet. He is about the last of that distinguished body of men who would be picked out as the best political speaker. As he likes to express it in his homely phrase: "You cannot always tell from the looks of a toad how far it can jump." So the stoop-shouldered, shambling-gaited, Iowa country banker is deceptive as to his abilities. The secretary is in close touch with the soil and draws many of its similitudes from the simple life and occupation of the farmer. He is a natural-born storyteller, and his knowledge of common people, their lives and tastes enables him to point his tales in the most effective way. He has the faculty of thinking quickly on his feet, and is sharp at repartee. Although his speech is at times quaint, there is no flaw in his grammar, and his English will pass muster with the most exacting.

Like many of the western statesmen, Secretary Shaw has the Lincoln habit of clinching a point in an argument with a story. He has a new story every cabinet day, and when it comes his turn to discuss matters of his department the rest of the cabinet members lean back in their chairs, knowing that they will hear matters of finance elucidated by witty and humorous tales.

New Fad of Postmasters.
A new fad has been started in postal circles. An unknown postmaster in an obscure town in the southwest has sent a photograph of his little office to the fourth assistant postmaster general, Chief Clerk Charles A. Conrad displayed the photograph in his office here in Washington, and that has started a rage among postmasters throughout the country to have their offices put on display in the department at Washington. The first picture was designed to call attention to the neat, beautiful and clean little office which the postmaster had secured. His pride was commendable, and Chief Clerk Conrad thought it deserved recognition. He had no idea of the trouble he was inviting. The photograph idea took more rapidly than vaccination, and for the past few months pictures have been arriving by the dozens and scores. They are of all sizes from a blurred tintype to a beautiful photo engraving, and represent post offices in every section of the country from Alaska to Mexico.

"I don't know where this thing is going to stop," says Mr. Conrad. "I think we now have on file one or two pictures of every post office in the United States except those in the big cities. The latter will be along presently. I suppose, and the big towns will vie with each other as to the number and beauty of the pictures they will send of government buildings. If this keeps on we will have to secure a separate building to hold the photographs."

Historic Land Marks Disappearing.
One of the standing grievances of the "old timers" is the rapidity with which historic landmarks are being destroyed in Washington. Nearly every session of congress bills are introduced for public improvements, the erection of new buildings or the extension of the park system that involve the demolition of some historically interesting old house or mansion. There is just now quite a discussion among the old residents of Washington of the project to acquire a square just northwest of the white house grounds for the erection of much-needed new public buildings.

There is no objection to the new buildings, as their need is fully recognized, but the old-timers do object to the occupancy of this particular square by the government. One of its most interesting mansions is the old Blair house, which was owned and occupied by Francis P. Blair, who edited the Globe, the official organ of Jackson's administration. When Blair lived there the house was the rendezvous of such famous men as Thomas H. Benton, Martin Van Buren, Levi Woodbury, Silas Wright and others. The historian, George Bancroft, when he was secretary of the navy during the Polk administration, occupied this house.

Montgomery Blair had this as his city residence from 1854 to the time of his death, and it is said that Col. Robert E. Lee had, at a dinner given him by Mr. Blair in the spacious old dining-room, told of President Lincoln's desire that he should accept the command of the union army at the outbreak of the civil war.

Right near the Blair mansion is the home of the late Gen. Beall, of Mexican war fame, and not far away is the house in which the late Admiral Porter died. Other houses of less note, but still having memories of the olden time clinging to them are included in this square. Diagonally across from the Blair house is an old, four-story building now used as a shop where upholstery and furniture are repaired, which for many years was the official headquarters of Gen. Winfield Scott.

Passing of the "Long Bridge."
Probably the most conspicuous of war time landmarks about Washington is about to disappear. There will be no tears shed over its departure, however, as for almost half a century it has been a menace to the city. This is the celebrated "long bridge" that occupied so prominent a place during the civil war. It was called the "gateway to the south," as across it marched the Army of the Potomac into Virginia and federal troops crossed and recrossed it by the thousands during the four years of civil strife.

The old structure was mentioned by Dickens in his American notes and it suggests a story still told in Washington to illustrate some of the peculiarities of that noted author. During Dickens' last visit to the United States he was entertained and lionized by Washington society, but at times was inclined to be a little snobbish and to sneer at the Americans. At a reception he was introduced to a gentleman whom he treated rather coolly. The next day this gentleman was sitting on the railing of the long bridge with a shotgun looking for ducks. Dickens in his peregrinations about the city, went out on the bridge and met the gentleman. The latter, remembering the Englishman's manner the night before, simply looked at him and went on hunting ducks. Dickens was a little chagrined, but supposed the man had not recognized him. Finally he turned to the hunter and said:

"I say, this view reminds me of a scene in David Copperfield."

The hunter turned impatiently and retorted: "Look here, Dickens; you can't spring any of your novels on me to-day. I'm out for ducks."

This bridge has been used for railroad and passenger traffic. A new railroad bridge which is more than twice the height of the old one from the water level has been constructed, and in a few weeks will be open to traffic. A new wagon bridge will then be erected above the railroad bridge, and when it is completed the old "long bridge" will be destroyed.

Army with Naval Ambitions.
The joint army and navy board is to determine whether the army is to have a navy of its own. Most naval officers have supposed that the control of submarine boats employed in warfare would be entirely under the naval establishment instead of being part of the equipment of the artillery corps. The army, on the other hand, has contended that as the submarine is to be used in the defense of the coast it should be operated by the coast artillery as an auxiliary of the fortifications on shore.

If the new drill regulations which have been issued for the coast artillery are a guide, then there is a real navy assigned to the coast-artillery known as the "floating defenses." None of these vessels are seagoing, but they consist of monitors, gunboats, scout ships, torpedo boats and patrol boats. The coast defense ships are to supplement the shore defenses where the latter do not give adequate protection by reason of the width of the approaches or the nearness of the harbor to the sea.

Scout ships are employed to patrol off shore and to discover the approach of the enemy and to signal the information to the shore station. Torpedo boats are needed at the fortifications to meet and repel attacks which may be made by the enemy's torpedo boats. Submarines are to maneuver outside of the mine field against large ships, prior to and during the attack. Patrol boats are needed in foggy weather to guard the mine fields. The coast artillery has not been given its feet as yet and the question as to whether these ships should be under the coast artillery or under the naval establishment has not yet been determined.

EFFECTS OF EVIL TEMPER.
The Man or Woman Who Is Swayed by Passion Is Bound to Be a Loser Always.

One of the most desirable things in life is for every person to learn to control his temper. There is seldom anything to gain, but rather everything to lose, when one permits himself to be swayed by passion under any circumstance. It is thus that friends are lost, enemies made, bad situations aggravated, endless misery created and, occasionally, the direct tragedies enacted. Of course there are times when one may derive for the moment a certain enjoyment in license of expressing exactly what he feels, but most surely must it be followed by a reaction of regret. Indeed, if a serious person, the probability is that on becoming calm again, after the fit has passed away, he will be ashamed of his foolish conduct and the disgraceful exhibition he made of himself; he will realize, down in his heart, that not right away, if ever again, can he occupy as strong a position, socially, as before the outbreak. In truth, having behaved like a fretful, peevish child, he has to a certain extent forfeited his title to manhood and the place of a man. More lamentable still, a fiery tempered woman who makes herself disgusting and hated in a neighborhood, in society or in public, is a terror to her family. There are few things sadder to contemplate than the skeletons hidden in the household closet. To live thus from day to day is like having the finest gardens and vineyards located on the slope of a volcano, and never know when the burning lava may pour through them. When because of the uncertainty of domestic life one exists in dread as to what the next hour may bring forth, he or she is really to be pitied—Epitomist.

WOMEN DO THE PROPOSING
In the Islands of Torres Strait the Girls Go Courting and Also Pop the Question.

How would you like to live in a land where the women have the privilege to propose not only one year out of every four but every year?

In Torres strait, between the northern extremity of Australia and the southern extremity of New Guinea, there is a labyrinth of small islands and coral reefs, so complicated and dangerous, it is said, that Torres, the original discoverer, required three months to get through.

These islands are inhabited by a Melanesian race of the Papuan type inhabiting New Guinea, among whom it is not only permissible but obligatory for women to propose. In fact, Prof. Haddon, who first visited the islands and made a careful study of the customs of the islands, says that among them it is considered as bad taste for a man to make a proposal of marriage as it is for a woman among us to propose to a man.

On the island of Tud, when a boy grows into manhood, one of the lessons his parents are careful to teach him is: "You no like girl first. If you do girl laugh and call you woman."

The way in which a young woman opens and conducts a courtship with the man for whom she has taken a fancy differs widely from the most approved method adopted by the leap year girl in America. When the island maiden becomes enamored she sends a piece of string to the object of her affections, which is a sign that she loves him. The sister then says to her brother: "Brother, I have good news for you. A woman loves you." He asks who the woman is, and, if willing to go on with the affair, tells his sister to ask the girl to keep an appointment with him at some designated spot. At the appointed time they meet and talk the matter over. The betrothal often is made at the first meeting if both parties are satisfied.

When a man and a woman begin to "keep company," he is branded on the back with charcoal, while her mark is cut into the skin, because she "asked the man." They are expected to get married, but if they don't, nothing can be done. If it is the man who is unwilling he is given a sound thrashing by the girl's father and friends.

After marriage, in spite of the fact that the girl did the proposing, she becomes the property of her husband. She even is so completely in his power that he can, if he should offend him, kill her with impunity.

A Ban on Trailing Dresses.
Trailing dresses are banned in Prague, Bohemia. By a vote of six to five, the magistrates of that city have ordered that all women who wear trailing dresses in the street shall be arrested and fined.

Mrs. Smith—Have you named your twin girls, Lucy?
Lucy—Yes; we've done name 'em "Floppin'" and "Jepson." Powerful poopy names. Dave, my old man, he done got dem names outen de rivah coryum—Cincinnati Commercial Gazette.

Not the Real Thing.
Husband—You say this is venison? What induced you to buy it?
Wife—Well, the butcher said it was cheap and—

Husband—If he had told you it wasn't deer he would have been nearer the truth—Philadelphia Ledger.

The Best Policy.
"Did that bank cashier come well recommended?"
"Very. He refunded over half what he embezzled at his last place."—Puck.

ALEXANDRA'S MANY CATS.

Dogs Have Been Supplanted in the Affections of English Queen and Her Followers.

To all except the favored few who are on intimate terms with Queen Alexandra it came as rather a surprise when on her arrival in Ireland, while ago, the queen was found to be accompanied by a pet cat. Heretofore a dog of one breed or another almost invariably has been numbered among her traveling companions, and it was known generally that besides being fond of bow-wows, she bred them extensively and was the owner of about the most luxurious kennels in England; but she never has been suspected of any special liking for cats. Now, however, these animals have almost entirely supplanted dogs as recipients of the queen's affection. Her kennels were the royal lady's delight, but when she discovered that all sorts of folk were copying her in this direction, she decided to stop breeding dogs and go in for cats instead. True to her customary policy of thoroughness, the queen now has a small army of the best breeds, and if any of the royal residences contain a mouse the creature must be a veritable DeWet of its kind.

The queen has six particular favorites among her cat family, but a valuable Persian enjoys her special affection. This is "Sandy"—who is so named because he first saw the light at Sandringham. For several months her majesty has never traveled without him, and he is as fondly attached to his royal mistress as the celebrated Irish terrier "Jack" was to the king in his most affectionate moments. "Sandy" is privileged to disport himself in the dining apartments, though his less fortunate brothers and

WOMEN IN PACKING HOUSES.

Fair Sex Have Invaded Great Slaughtering Concerns and Now Two Thousand Are Employed.

The number of women in the Chicago stockyards has almost doubled in the past year. At the present time 3,000 women are employed there. It is true that a little less than half that number are engaged in the revolting work described, the majority being employed in painting and labeling cans, wrapping and packing soap and butterine. To such work the butchers make no objection. But the number engaged in the less pleasing occupations is gradually being increased. Last summer the sausage makers at the stock yards went on strike. The strike was not sanctioned by the national officers of the organization, and when the men refused to return to work the packers proceeded to fill their places with women. The union could not object. The men had struck without authority. The women are at work to-day, filling, linking and trimming sausages. The men are seeking work. What wages the women are being paid is known only to themselves and their employers. They are Lithuanian peasant women. Few speak the English language. To organize them would be practically impossible, even were it advisable, which the union officials do not believe. But at frequent intervals a few men are laid off and a few more women hired. Can the union stop the innovation?

ART OF PICKLING STEEL.

Process First Tried in This Country at Williamsburg Bridge in New York City.

The pickling of structural steel was probably first done in this country in connection with the steel flooring of the Williamsburg bridge in New York City, declares Engineering Record. The specifications for the 11-inch channels on which the paving blocks are carried required them to be cleaned and painted with pure linseed oil while still hot from the rolls. When it came time to execute the work these specifications were changed so as to permit the metal to be cleaned in pickling baths, which has long been done to a considerable extent in Europe. In the case of the channels for the Williamsburg bridge the shapes were first boiled in a ten per cent. solution of caustic soda to take off grease, and were then rinsed in boiling water. Afterward they were dipped into a boiling ten per cent. solution of sulphuric acid until all the oxide was removed. After being rinsed in boiling water they were dipped into a boiling ten per cent. solution of carbonate of soda to free them from any trace of acid. Finally they were rinsed in boiling water, dried over steam pipes and then treated by the Sabin process of enameling.

HOW SEEDS GERMINATE.
Writer Describes Method by Which Plum and Apricot Tree Enter on Stage of Life.

"The method by which a plum or apricot tree makes its entrance upon the stage of life is interesting," says Pearson's. "The hard shell of the plum stone splits it into halves through the strenuous power of the embryo within. Out of the kernel the little root emerges and grows fat, while the nutty kernel also divides into its halves, and each gradually transforms itself into thick fleshy green leaves which show above the ground, while between these peculiar leaves two pretty, bright, ordinary pairs of green leaves above ground—one pair fat and full of food, which they keep passing on to the plum infant, the other pair thin and delicate, but daily growing stronger to take up the task of manufacturing food, not merely handing on stores, so that the plant may grow and flourish when the stores are finished."

BANNERS AT CHINESE BURIAL.

Rich and Important Oriental Is Laid Away with Much Pomp and Splendor.

When a rich and important Chinaman dies his funeral is conducted with much pomp and splendor. His friends and relations, instead of sending wreaths, send innumerable banners. These are made of white silk, with inscriptions beautifully worked in black velvet, and express the senders' good wishes to the deceased himself, or to the members of his family for many generations. On the day of the funeral these banners are carried by hired men, who are all dressed alike for the occasion. After the funeral, which lasts several hours at the cemetery, is over, the banners are all brought back, and eventually grace the rooms of the late Chinaman's house.

London's New Craze.

Fashionable London society has invented a new craze in the shape of "war dinners," served in the latest styles of Russian or Japanese cooking and cooked after the methods of those countries. From a gastronomic point of view, the Russian dinner, with its vodka, is perhaps the most successful, as the Japanese cooks serve up some weird dishes which no self-respecting European would touch under ordinary circumstances, and the diners must sit on the floor. Fashion is, however, a taskmaster, not a servant, and fashion decrees that whoever wishes to be smart must eat these dishes no matter how they taste.

Rare Birds.

Commenting on the craze for killing rare birds wherever they may be found, a writer in London Truth says: "I should have thought that the fact that a bird is rare would be a reason for not killing it, make him rarer."

The Difference.

Soldiering Female (to husband No. 2)—Oh, if you only knew the difference between you, wretch, and my first husband!

Husband—I do know the difference. He is happy now that he has left you, and I was happy before I got you.—Chicago Journal.

No One to Take Offense.

Fuller—I understand you said I looked like a monkey? What do you mean by saying that?

Waller—Oh, it's all right; no harm done, you know. There wasn't any monkey within hearing when I said it.—Stray Stories.

How About This?

The London Express learns that "It is proposed in America that the prefix 'Mr.' should be abolished by act of congress, and every man should be known by his trade or profession, as 'Draper Jones' or 'Attorney Smith.'"

Restaurant on Ship.

Passengers on the enormous new steamer now being built at Stettin for the Hamburg-American line, will be allowed, if they prefer, to pay for the passage only, taking their meals in the restaurant on deck.

Wrong Either Way.

You are up against it when people praise you. If you agree with them they think you are conceited; if you do not agree with them they think you are a bigger fool than you look.—Chicago Tribune.

Crab Cheese.

Found some good, rich cheese with a little mustard, oil, vinegar, capers and salt until the consistency of cream of crab. Serve in a fancy dish with thin fingers of crisp toast.—Washington Star.

Annoying Accompaniment.

Probably the actress who objected to her audience's eating peanuts at a performance of Ibsen thought it was playing the shell game on her.—Chicago Journal.

Smart Old Uncle.

Between 1896 and 1903 Uncle Sam increased his national wealth from \$70,000,000,000 to \$100,000,000,000, an increase of \$30,000,000,000.—Des Moines Capital.

Russian Horses.

During the last three years Germany imported from Russia 112,618 horses, valued at over \$10,000,000. Russia has now prohibited this exportation.

French Coast Going.

The sea is said to be gradually eating away the French coast, having within the last five years swallowed up no less than 460 acres.

Long-Lived Occupation.

Instances of extreme old age are more common among those engaged in the exercise of gardening than in any other employment.

Nap for the Soldiers.

Soldiers in the Italian army are allowed two hours in the middle of the day for a nap.

THE WAY TO LOOK NEAT.

And Comfortable is to have your hair nicely combed and put up in the latest style. If your hair is kinky and harsh it looks untidy and hurts when you try to comb it. You can easily change all that and make your hair straight, soft, beautiful and easy to comb by using the Original Oxonized Ox Marrow. It also gives that healthy glow to the hair so much desired. One bottle will do it. For over forty years ladies of refinement have been using it with great success. Warranted harmless, and never fails. Only 50 cents a bottle. Sold by druggists, or send us 50 cents for a bottle. We pay all express charges. Address Oxonized Ox Marrow Co., 76 Wabash avenue, Chicago, Ill.

THE BROAD AX.

Is for sale at the following news stands:

The Afro-American News Office, 2104 State Street.
Alton H. Blake, shoe shining parlors, 2508 1/2 State street.
J. C. Campbell, cigars, tobacco and fancy groceries, 4710 State street.
A. F. Tervalon's Cigar Store and News Stand, 2526 State street.
Edward Felix's Cigar Store, 353 20th street, N. E. Corner Armour Ave.
T. B. Hall's Cigar Store and Laundry office, 381 39th St.
Turner William's Cigar and News Stand, 2903 Armour Ave.
Mrs. B. Williams, Cigars, Notions and News Stand, 486 1/2 State street.
Frank H. Hart, 354-31st street, cigars, tobacco and Laundry office.
Mrs. W. H. Moore, 4942 State street, cigars, tobacco and news stand.
C. J. Chambers and Company, dealers in fine cigars, 2958 State street.
Mrs. E. F. Early, groceries and notions, 2933 State St.
The Stationery, 2970 State street.
P. S. Hotchkiss's Cigars, Notions and News Stand, 131 W. 51st Street.
Isidor Jacobson, cigars, tobacco and stationery, 3149 State St.
Woodfolk and Mitchell Cigars, Tobacco and News Stand, 4902 State Street.

News items and advertisements left at these places will find their way into the columns of The Broad Ax.



SECRETARY L. M. SHAW.



DICKENS AND THE HUNTER.



A NEW FAD.



SUBMARINES FOR ARMY.



PASSING OF OLD LANDMARKS.